

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:

- determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
- assigning a password to an image to be concealed;
- setting concealment to the image to be concealed;
- photographing an image;
- digitizing the photographed image;
- assigning the digitized image a file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder, the file name being associated with the password;
- storing the digitized image; image to the current image storage folder; and
- not displaying the image set to be concealed when displaying images stored in the current image folder when the camera is in an image reproduction mode.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed, determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
- setting concealment to the image set to be concealed;
- assigning a password to the image set to be concealed; ~~[[and]]~~
- associating the password with a new file name for the image set to be concealed;
- re-storing the image set to be concealed with the new file name, the image set to be concealed being re-stored in the current image storage folder; and
- not displaying the image set to be concealed.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

- determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed has been selected;
- allowing a password to be input; and
- ~~finding the image set to be concealed~~ if the assigned password matches the input password, password; and

displaying the image set to be concealed that is associated with the input password.
~~found-concealed image.~~

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed has been selected;
allowing a password to be input; and
~~finding the image set to be concealed~~ if the assigned password matches the input password, password; and
displaying the image set to be concealed that is associated with the input password.
~~found-concealed image.~~

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed is selected by selecting a concealed-image-view menu item.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the digitized image is stored on a memory card.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the camera is in an image reproduction mode.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising:
if the camera is not in an image reproduction mode, repeating the steps of
determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
assigning a password to an image to be concealed;
setting concealment to the image to be concealed;
photographing an image;

digitizing the photographed image; [[and]]
assigning the digitized image a file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder; and
storing the digitized ~~image~~; image to the current image storage folder.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:
assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera;
determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
setting concealment ~~to the~~ of an image to be concealed; photographed using a concealment file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder, the concealment file name being associated with the password;
photographing an image;
digitizing the photographed image;
storing the digitized ~~image~~; image with the concealment file name to the current image storage folder; and
not displaying the image ~~set to be concealed~~ with the concealment file name when the camera is in a reproduction mode.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, further comprising:
if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed, determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
setting concealment to the image set to be concealed; [[and]]
associating the password with a new file name for the image set to be concealed;
re-storing the image set to be concealed with the new file name, the image set to be concealed being re-stored in the current image storage folder; and
not displaying the image set to be concealed.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format for a digital camera.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:

assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera;
determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of
an image using the digital camera;
photographing an image;
digitizing the photographed image;
assigning the digitized image a concealment file name according to a concealment
naming convention that defines a concealment folder, the concealment naming convention
being different from a standard file name convention which defines a current image storage
folder, the concealment file name being associated with the password;
storing the digitized image with the concealment file name in [[a]] the concealment
folder; and
not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder when the camera is in a
reproduction mode.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising:
if image concealment is not selected before an image is photographed,
determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the
image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
re-storing the image set to be concealed with a file name according to the concealment
naming convention, the re-storing causing moving of the image set to be concealed to the
concealment folder and storing the image in the concealment folder; and
not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying images stored in the concealment folder
~~information on the image chosen to be concealed~~ has been selected;
allowing a password to be input; and
~~searching the concealment folder and finding the image set to be concealed~~ if the
assigned password matches the input password, password; and
displaying the images stored in the concealment folder. ~~found concealed image.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying images stored in the concealment folder
~~information on the image chosen to be concealed~~ has been selected;
allowing a password to be input; and

~~searching the concealment folder and finding the image set to be concealed if the assigned password matches the input password, password; and~~
~~displaying the images stored in the concealment folder. found concealed image.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): A digital camera capable of concealing image information comprising:

- a main body having a lens portion and a display portion;
- a shutter installed at one side of the main body;
- a concealment ~~setting input portion~~ button installed at one side of the main ~~body~~ body, the concealment button having a dedicated function that allows a user to determine whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Claim 19 (original): The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:

- a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A digital camera capable of concealing image information comprising:

- a main body having a lens portion and a display portion;
- a shutter installed at one side of the main body;
- a concealment ~~setting input portion~~ button installed at one side of the main ~~body to store body, the concealment button having a dedicated function that stores an image [[set]] to be captured or an image being displayed on a display screen of the digital camera concealed~~ in a concealment folder in a storage medium.

Claim 21 (original): The digital camera of claim 20, further comprising:

- a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting.

Claim 22 (original): The digital camera of claim 20, wherein the storage medium is a memory card.